

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-2426 • Fax: 517-373-2964
E-mail: senmschauer@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/SD19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2006

CONTACT: Sen. Mark Schauer
PHONE: 517-373-2426

Schauer Partners With Granholm & Army Gen. Blum in Effort to Secure Air Guard's Future Mission *Joins Community, Elected Official in Fighting for Local Jobs*

LANSING--State Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek), a key player in removing the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base (BCANGB) from the base closure list in 2005, today joined Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and military leadership in proposing the next flying mission for the base.

Army Lieutenant General Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, traveled to Battle Creek at the request of the Granholm to tour the Air Guard Base and Ft. Custom Training Center to discuss future plans for joint operations in Battle Creek.

"I would encouraged by Gen. Blum's understanding of Battle Creek's strategic geographic importance to homeland security and disaster response," said Schauer. "His visit and Governor Granholm's continued commitment to Battle Creek are positive signs for the future of our base."

The mission currently under consideration for Battle Creek is the Air Force's Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) mission, which is intended to provide a rapid-response, intra-theater mobility mission with cargo, equipment and soldiers. The Air Force is in the process of determining possible locations for their JCA mission, which could place new aircraft at Army and Air National Guard aviation unites in each of the 10 FEMA regions nationwide.

"The presence of the national guard here in Battle Creek is vital to both our economic and military security," said Schauer. "The proposed mission would secure 300 jobs and is a good fit to promote cooperation between government and business."

Schauer's role in the proposal focused on connecting state services, particularly the Michigan Department of Transportation, to enhance the Battle Creek area's ability to support the new mission.

###

Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.